

Our Xmas Stock of Goods is worth coming to see. We don't enumerate them but we have something to please one and all

**ROSS, HIGGINS & Co.**

**TERSE TALES OF THE TOWN**

**Work Progressing**—In a short time the improvement of the street running from the north approach of Young's Bay draw bridge to the county road will be completed. Already Contractor Gerding has finished the clearing and in a few days will start the work of grading.

**Equalize Assessments**—This afternoon the city board of equalization will convene for the purpose of equalizing the assessments which were made to pay for the cost of building the sewer on 35th street and the drain on Exchange street.

**Establishes Office Hours**—Mayor Wise announces that every business day he will be in his office in the city hall from 10 a. m. to 11:30 a. m., for the purpose of transacting any city business that may come up, and any persons desiring to see him on municipal affairs can do so by appearing there during these hours.

**Mayor Takes Oath**—Herman Wise yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock took the oath of office as the mayor of Astoria. The oath was taken in the city auditor's office in the presence of Geo. Nolan, who besides Judge Anderson who gave the mayor the oath, was the only person present. Mayor Wise has now entered upon his official duties and will preside at the next meeting of the council.

Place your Christmas order with us now and we will see that it will be filled with the best goods the market affords.

Our prices are right

**JOHNSON BROS.**

GOOD GOODS.

118-122 Twelfth St. Astoria, Ore.

Only a Few Days Left, You Can Select a Suitable

**CHRISTMAS GIFT**

FROM OUR NEW STOCK OF FINE

**FURNITURE**

WITH PERFECT SATISFACTION



**IS CHARITY WASTED**

Two Letters Upon One Semi-Public Matter.

**FATHER TELLS MORTIFIED**

Recapitulation of a Tale Already Told—Superintendent Gardiner and the Mitchell Children—What the Neighbors Have to Say—Astorian's Attitude.

In dealing with the subject matter made conspicuous by the following communications received at this office yesterday afternoon, the Astorian took for its mentor in the premises, Superintendent W. T. Gardiner, of the Boys and Girls Aid Society, of Portland, who, of his own initiative, came into this section and made his own definite inquiries and drew his own personal and official conclusions in the matter of the necessities of the Mitchell family, and frankly passed them on to the reporters of this paper. He was relied upon as a conscientious and painstaking official and this paper had, and has, implicit confidence in his report of the case, not only to the court but to the reporters. And if in the course of his inquiry, he was misinformed, to the discredit and discomfort of Mr. Mitchell, the Astorian can but regret the mischance that has come to him and to cheerfully publish the statement he makes in his own behalf and that of the good friends who supplement it with one of a like sort: They are as follows:

"To the editor of the Astorian: We, the undersigned residents of Knappa, Oregon, desire to set forth some facts in corroboration of the facts set forth in the accompanying letter from Ernest L. Mitchell. It is true that for some time past rumor has it that Mrs. Mitchell and family were destitute of provisions and clothing. It is also true that her neighbors have at different times provided her with provisions and clothing upon the strength of these rumors without any further evidence. The undersigned have made a personal examination of the conditions herein mentioned and find that there is plenty of provisions, and clothing, sufficient to keep Mrs. Mitchell and her children well fed and clothed, without aid from any source whatever.

"W. H. Twilight,  
"H. A. Cameron,  
"Margaret Cameron,  
"Lenore McDonald,  
"E. C. Belknap,  
"C. Belknap."

"Sherwood, Ore., Dec. 12, 05.  
"Editor Astorian:—Since my name has been used with considerable freedom in the Astorian recently, I would like to make a statement. The article I allude to was printed Dec. 8th, and is, to speak moderately, misleading. In the first place I have not failed to provide for the necessities of my family but on the contrary provided very well for them as receipted bills will show and my greatest failure was to appreciate what at last became only too evident, that I could not do everything for them. Their mother even found it too much to wash their faces once in two or three weeks, or to take even a little care of clothes which were provided through no effort at all on her part. As to the charge of harsh and cruel treatment that is without foundation in fact and as to deserting my children I have not nor will I ever fail to do all in my power for them.

"I have spent thousands of dollars in Astoria and no one there or elsewhere can say that my money or time were spent in a disreputable manner or for my own pleasure or fine clothes, rather a considerable sum which I earned and one thousand dollars in addition have gone trying to make something of nothing which I am now convinced cannot be done. One more thing, I sent Mrs. Mitchell money since leaving Knappa and requested her to let me know if she was in need of groceries. She answered that she needed hay for the cow which I forwarded the next day. Now I do not wish to take up too much space in this matter but as this is the second time I have been roasted without any effort to find out whether there was grounds for it I think I may say that I think that the struggle made by me in the years gone by to make a home for that woman and her children entitle me to more consideration.

"Yours very truly,  
"ERNEST L. MITCHELL."

Mrs. Tilda Anderson, message. 147 Grand Avenue. Given either at home or will call.

**A GOOD WARM OVERCOAT**



IS PROBABLY WHAT YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT JUST NOW. OF COURSE YOU WANT SOMETHING MORE THAN WARMTH, YOU WANT STYLE. WE OFFER OUR LINE OF L. ADLER, BROS., & CO.'S ROCHESTER MAKE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION. ONE OF THESE WILL COST YOU FROM \$15 TO \$30. THE MERCHANT TAILOR COULDN'T THINK OF DULICATING IT FOR LESS THAN FROM \$35 TO \$60.

**C. H. COOPER** The Leading House of Astoria

**FROM THE FIRE CHIEF**

Warning Against the Mischance of Christmas Fires.

The following communication is published at the request of Fire Chief C. E. Foster, in relation to the use of inflammable materials in connection with Christmas festivities.

**To the Public.**

"Christmas time is once more here, and I desire to again call the attention of all to the danger in connection with Christmas tree exercises. Christmas greens, cotton and the like, are very inflammable, and the greatest caution should be used; I would advise that, wherever it is possible, electric lights be used in the place of candles, as a great deal of danger may be avoided in this.

See that all doors are unfastened; that all aisles are clear and don't allow crowding around the tree. In case of fire, telephone the fire department immediately.

"If churches and societies intending to hold exercises will notify me of their desire, I will send a member of the department to be present at the exercises, equipped with a fire extinguisher so as to be on hand in case of accident.

"A little precaution taken may be the means of saving the lives of the little ones that gather at these occasions.

"Very respectfully  
"C. E. FOSTER, Chief of Fire Dept."

**ESTRAY NOTICE.**

Taken up by the undersigned, a pony mare, brown color, with white stripe on forehead.

FRANK SEABURG, 261 Taylor St.

N. A. Ackerman, 421 Bond St., does all manner of taxidermy, furniture upholstery, carpet cleaning and laying, mattress making a specialty and all work guaranteed.

Get one of those new style graphophones for Christmas, at Ellers Branch Store, 424 Commercial street, A. R. Cyrus, manager.

Do you wish to study the piano? Piano harmony and history of music taught at Miss Tawney's studio, 502 Commercial. Fulton building, Phone Black, 2146.

**MOVED AND READY.**

Charles Heilborn & Co. have moved into their new store and make the announcement that they are now open for business and are ready to fill all orders promptly.

Wood! Wood! Wood! Wood! Wood!

For choice dry box-wood, telephone 2004 Black, or leave orders at the Astoria Grocery. O. Nelson, "The Wood Man."

Hot drinks and sandwiches at Hoefler's.

**Coughing Spell Caused Death.**

"Harry Duckwell, aged 25 years choked to death early yesterday morning at his home, in the presence of his wife and child. He contracted a slight cold a few days ago and paid but little attention to it. Yesterday morning he was seized with a fit of coughing which continued for some time. His wife sent for a physician but before he could arrive another coughing spell came on and Duckwell died from suffocation—St. Louis Globe Democrat, Dec. 1st, 1901."

Ballard's Horehound Syrup would have saved his life; 25c, 50c and \$1.00. Sold by Hart's drug store.

**YOUR NEXT.**

Never have to wait long at the Occident Barber Shop. A. E. Peterson, proprietor.

Morning Astorian, 75 cents a month.

The Little Book Store for sale.

**CLOSING OUT SALE.**

On the fifteenth of November, the entire stock of goods at the Little Book Store, will be put on sale at cost. Christmas bargains in books, stationery novelties, etc. 174 Tenth street.

**A List of Helpful Hints for Gift-Buyers**

- Smoking Jackets ..... \$5.00 up
- Bath Robes ..... \$4.00 up
- Gloves ..... \$1.00 up
- Evening Dress Protectors ..... \$1.50 up
- Braces, fancy ..... 50c up
- Umbrellas ..... \$1.00 up
- Waistcoats, fancy ..... \$1.50 up
- Bags and Suit Cases ..... \$2.50 up
- Neckwear ..... 50c up
- Hosiery, fancy ..... 25c up
- Handkerchiefs ..... 25c up
- Shirts ..... \$1.00 up
- Pajamas ..... \$1.50 up
- Night Robes ..... \$1.00 up
- Underwear, suit ..... \$1.00 up
- SUITS and OVERCOATS**
- For Men ..... \$10.00 up
- For Boys ..... \$4.00

**S. DANZIGER & CO.**  
Astoria's Greatest Clothier.

**Holiday Gift**



In the way of TOILET SETS, MANICURE SETS... PHOTOGRAPH, POSTAL AND MUSICAL ALBUMS AND UP TO DATE BOOKS, NOTIONS AND TOYS. BIG LINE OF PICTURES.

**Svenson's Book Store,**  
Fourteenth and Commercial Street

**Celebrated Stoves and Ranges**



THE ZENITH AND THE STAR. Every one guaranteed. Will let you stand or sit on the oven door if you wish. Prices reduced on all stoves and ranges till after the Holidays.

**W. J. Scully**

470-472 COMMERCIAL STREET